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SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1909.

## Business Methods in Governmental Policy.

In another column will be found the  
views of a Washington merchant on the  
tariff and the national finances—views  
which may be regarded as typical of  
those held by the average business man  
the country over. Mr. Liser has the  
same optimistic feeling about our material  
future that animates Senator Aldrich,  
and believes that with the tariff out of  
the way, the duties settled upon a reason-  
able basis, business will go forward by  
leaps and bounds. Prompt settlement  
of the tariff question is, therefore, one of  
the important requirements of the busi-  
ness situation, and any waste of time in  
windy discussion merely intended to be-  
fog the issue is costly to the country.

Particularly commendable are Mr. Liser's  
views respecting the employment of  
bond issues to meet those national ex-  
penditures that will benefit future gen-  
erations. It is partly because the Federal  
revenues fail to provide funds for these  
expenditures that we have a deficit. But  
there is no reason why such enterprises  
as the Panama Canal should not be paid  
for out of the proceeds of bond issues;  
nor should the government hesitate to  
mortgage the future for the erection of  
badly needed public buildings. It is easy  
to show that the policy of borrowing  
money would be cheaper than the present  
wasteful method of paying rentals  
which in some cases exceed in a few  
years the cost of the properties occupied  
for governmental purposes.

Governmental economy need not be par-  
simony, and the application to govern-  
ment business of the principles by which  
the progressive business man is guided  
would produce ampler results than are  
now attained by short-sighted methods  
and expensive procrastination.

Incidentally, the Young Turks are do-  
ing the most vociferous gobbling.

## Army Religion by Law!

An army chaplain, the one attached to  
the Fourteenth United States Cavalry, is  
quoted as expressing himself in favor of  
legislation which would attain to "a  
realization of present conditions and take  
off the tariff in hell upon a soldier's soul."  
This may be assumed to mean that there  
should be compulsory religious services  
for the military personnel, and that this  
compulsion should be accomplished by  
statute.

Of course, no form of religion can be  
imposed by legislation, and the most  
abiding faith in the efficacy of law will  
stop far short of any such expectation.  
The enthusiasm of the ardent chaplain  
may account for his desire to compel by  
Congressional enactment the attendance  
of enlisted men and officers at the divine  
services, but it does not furnish any rea-  
son why such a chaplain should reason  
the belief that religion anywhere, in  
or out of the military establishment, may  
be created or maintained by law. If the  
cavalry chaplain is correctly quoted and  
was serious in his comment, the remedial  
legislation is required more for the re-  
pression of such weird notions than in  
behalf of the service he is employed to  
guide and help.

Kansas threatens to elect William Al-  
len White lieutenant governor, whether  
or no. What's the matter with Kansas?

## Mars and Martians.

We doubt that the average citizen  
cares particularly whether communica-  
tion between this planet and Mars is  
ever successfully set up. The pending  
proposition will interest various scientific  
gentlemen and astronomical bigwigs, but  
the ordinary layman will give it scant  
consideration.

Mars is probably inhabited. Life in some  
form, perhaps, exists there—animal as  
well as plant life. It is extremely im-  
probable, we think, however, that human  
beings such as we are known to be  
far off and inaccessible star. If there  
be humans there, their environment is  
so different from ours that they are un-  
doubtedly mentally and physically en-  
slaved along strange and grotesque lines,  
as we are able to judge those things.  
Romantic speculation in respect of these  
things is far more entertaining and en-  
gaging than actual knowledge would  
prove to be, we suspect.

At the same time, it must be a pretty  
problem to the alert investigator whose  
mind naturally gravitates to things of  
such a nature. Are those people—  
if people there be on Mars—far and away  
our intellectual superiors? Do they en-  
joy pleasures of living undreamed of in  
our poor philosophy? Are our ships, and  
automobiles, and electrical contrivances  
all ancient history to them? And their  
process of personal communication—is it  
oral, or do they actually read one another's  
thoughts? Or are they, on the other  
hand, a dull, thick-witted people; lazy,  
fat, and ponderous? Would they open  
their eyes in hysterical astonishment at  
the operation of our telephones? These  
are some of the things the scientists  
would like to know and are going to  
try to find out.

If Solomon was right when he said  
there is nothing new under the sun,

Mars has been communicated with in  
days now dead and gone, or it never  
will be. We imagine the latter is the  
truth. We hardly feel that we shall ever  
possess exact data concerning the Mar-  
tians and their manners and state of ex-  
istence. The present programme involves  
an estimated expenditure of \$10,000,000,  
with not more than one chance in a  
thousand that anything will come of it.  
It is a scientifically fascinating propo-  
sition—this poking our noses into Mars's  
affairs. But it is highly improbable that  
we shall ever know enough about it  
either to hurt or benefit anybody or any-  
thing.

If there were not so much tariff dis-  
vision, perhaps we should have more  
real, genuine tariff revision.

## Mr. Taft and the Railroads.

The Roosevelt administration's policy  
regarding consolidation of transportation  
lines on the community of interest plan  
has been directly challenged by the rail-  
roads. Two years ago the Pennsylvania  
Railroad Company sold a portion of its  
holdings of Norfolk and Western stock,  
and subsequently disposed of its hold-  
ings of Baltimore and Ohio and Ches-  
apeake and Ohio stock. These transfers  
were made, as was officially stated, "in  
deference to the present state of public  
opinion upon such matters," although it  
was insisted that the company was "en-  
tirely within its legal rights in purchas-  
ing and holding these shares." Within  
the past few days the Pennsylvania peo-  
ple have repurchased nearly all the Nor-  
folk and Western shares formerly un-  
loaded, so that they now control 37 per  
cent of the latter's capital stock, and a  
dominating interest, just as they did  
prior to the threatening demonstration of  
public sentiment during the Roosevelt  
administration. That demonstration  
checked for the time being the move-  
ment toward railway consolidation, but  
the movement is now being resumed, ac-  
cording to the New York Journal of  
Commerce, which thus describes the  
situation:

"Under the Roosevelt regime the absorption  
of competing lines was strictly forbidden, but  
since President Taft came into office the bars have  
apparently been let down, for during the last few  
months various 'deals' have been made involving  
the passing of control from weak to strong in-  
terests. It may be added that other similar trans-  
actions are understood to be pending. The Canadian  
Pacific, the Hill system, the Harriman system, and  
the Havley system has each been in the market  
for new masters with more or less success, so that  
the Pennsylvania's action merely emphasizes the  
trend of events under the Taft administration."

It would be interesting to know what  
ground the railway interests have for as-  
suming that the Taft administration will  
take a different attitude from the Roose-  
velt administration on railroad consolida-  
tion. The Interstate Commerce Commis-  
sion has declared that such consolidation  
meant the inevitable suppression of com-  
petition, and that it was contrary to public  
policy, as evidenced by the laws of the  
various States, as well as Federal statutes.  
In its report on the Harriman lines  
the commission laid down the axiom that  
"railroads should not be permitted to in-  
vest capital in stocks, bonds, and se-  
curities of other railroads and of steam-  
ship companies, except connecting lines,  
for the purpose of forming through routes  
of transportation, including branches and  
feeder lines."

Now, Mr. Taft has said substantially  
the same thing, notably in his address of  
August 19, 1907, before the Ohio Buckeye  
Club, wherein he planned himself squarely  
upon the Roosevelt programme. Mr. Taft  
then said it should be "unlawful for an  
interstate railroad to acquire stock in a  
competing line," and that competing lines  
should be prohibited from having common  
directors or officers. He referred to the  
enormous power that one man could ac-  
quire over the transportation systems of  
the country under the community of in-  
terest plan, and said that no one could  
read the history of the Harriman trans-  
actions "without looking for some means  
of remedying such a dangerous tendency,  
which, if not stopped, will lead to the  
absorption of all the railroads of the  
country into one hand."

It would be interesting, we repeat, to  
be informed of the process of reasoning  
by which great railway financiers have  
reached the conclusion that the bars are  
down for a policy of railway consolidation  
that Mr. Taft has condemned as danger-  
ous and contrary to public policy.

The particularly magnificent distance  
recently existing in Washington between  
the White House and the Capitol is be-  
ing gradually reduced.

The New York American recently  
printed a new and fiercely pugna-  
cious looking picture of Col. John Temple  
Graves. The colonel recently having  
managed to get into a first-rate row with  
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

A St. Louis chauffeur was fined \$10  
the other day for "not tightening his  
clutch in time to avoid the accident." The  
Standard Oil Company was once  
fined \$25,000 for tightening its clutch—  
but that is another story.

It begins to look as if those Senators  
favoring free lumber will have to be  
content with something like free knot-  
holes.

"The men on Mars have abnormally  
large heads," says a scientist. Especial-  
ly, we presume, the star baseball players  
and actors.

Sixty-six college students have been  
suspended down in Lebanon, Tenn., for  
cutting their recitations in order to take  
in a circus. Next time the boys will in-  
vite the faculty to go along, if they  
are wise.

Abdul Hamid will not be totally cast  
down, however, unless somebody makes  
him pay some money for something during  
the unpleasantness.

A Western statesman is advocating a  
Federal law "prohibiting the marriage of  
unit persons." In retrospective con-  
templation of Boni, MacBorough, and  
their ilk, we incline to think an interna-  
tional law of that kind would be a great  
thing for this country.

When informed that he really must  
accept another term as President of  
Mexico, Senor Diaz wept, said it was "so  
sudden," and all that, but did not neglect  
to say yes, all right.

"Probably the most imposing spectacle  
to be seen in Washington is a Virginia  
Congressman who has been fattened on  
protected peanuts," says the Charleston

News and Courier. Unless, mayhap, it be  
a South Carolina Congressman who has  
been fattened on protected rice.

Joe Bailey, Joe Bailey, you are the one  
best bet on your side of the chamber—  
and our money's on you yet!

Mars is to be communicated with by  
means of a number of large mirrors.  
These, it is thought, may be depended on  
properly to reflect the Martians' opinions  
on events and things.

Cheer up! Doubtless April has some  
fifty-seven more varieties of weather to  
spring on us yet.

Nothing succeeds like success, and  
when it comes to the annual peach crop,  
nothing fails like failure, it appears.

Fifty cents a bushel is to be the duty  
on onions. The more one pokes around in  
this tariff bill, the louder it smells.

"I am in the game for the money I  
can make out of it—strictly," says Mr.  
Patten, of wheat fame. It must pain Mr.  
Thomas W. Lawson to hear a man talk  
after that fashion.

The original prohibitionist of the coun-  
try lived in Chicago, we are informed.  
That is where the ultimate prohibitionist  
will be found also, we think.

"Wise men will keep one umbrella at  
the office and one at home," says the  
Pittsburg Dispatch. And carry one with  
them occasionally, too.

Abdul Hamid evidently prefers to be  
a live Turk with his wings clipped,  
rather than a deceased hero with his  
plumage intact.

The baseball season was opened in  
Pittsburg in a snowstorm. It generally  
concludes in Washington in a frost.

"Protection and fair treatment to the  
consumer are incompatible," says a tar-  
iff reformer. But not inconsiderable,  
according to the Payne idea.

Skeletons are to come in free under  
the proposed new tariff law. Hereafter,  
therefore, skeletons at the fairs will  
give us something to be thankful for,  
anyway.

"I will fight Johnson," says Jeffries.  
Sounds promising. "I have fought John-  
son" will bring much greater relief, how-  
ever.

Some counterfeit \$100 bills are reported  
to be in circulation. So, you see, the  
predatory bird have their troubles, also.  
The prize-winning ears are sent to the county  
exhibit. The best ten there are entered  
in a State show, and then the States  
compete. The final winners are sifted to  
the best one ear in the whole United  
States. Scientific interest in agriculture  
is growing. It is one finger post on the  
road from the city to the farm.

## Stimulating Corn Growing.

Through the schools of a number of  
Western corn-growing States boys and  
girls are stimulated by prizes to plant  
little patches of corn. Out of each com-  
munity where an exhibit is held, ten  
prize-winning ears are sent to the county  
exhibit. The best ten there are entered  
in a State show, and then the States  
compete. The final winners are sifted to  
the best one ear in the whole United  
States. Scientific interest in agriculture  
is growing. It is one finger post on the  
road from the city to the farm.

## No Rival Permitted.

Discussion is under way as to why Col.  
Roosevelt never patronized the national  
game in Washington. Possibly he did not  
care to see the better handling of the  
Big Stick.

## Ninety-two in One.

Ninety-two Senators will have ninety-  
two ways on the tariff, and then, for all  
practical purposes, one Senator will cast  
the vote.

## Personality.

The world's force to-day is personality,  
just as in the time of Julius Caesar, Na-  
poleon Bonaparte, and Oliver Cromwell.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

## PRACTICAL POSY.

The rose is well enough to sing;  
The daffodil adorns the spring.  
But I would laud that helpful thing,  
The young radish.

The Jonquil quite deserves its bays;  
The lily shines in roundelay;  
But I have something else to praise,  
The new onion.

The floral beauties and their kith  
Are things of moment and of pith.  
But what is there the matter with  
The shad shortcake?

## Crowded Out.

"The Balkans seem quiet these days";  
"Better be. No use trying to annex  
newspaper space with the ball season  
just opening."

## Timely Caution.

"It's all very well to leave the stage to  
dram socks."  
"But before doing it, remember that  
you will have to go through your per-  
formance with no orchestra and no spot  
light."

## The Bard's Reward.

"A poet has just started to death."  
"Let us send him a wreath of flowers."  
"Let us rather wait for his centenary,  
collect a number of wreaths, and have  
public speaking."

## Even There.

I took the road to yesterday  
And got a jar.  
For even there I had to dodge  
A touring car.

## It May Be So.

"They say that silence is golden."  
"I begin to believe it. Nothing ever got  
me into trouble but my gab."

## Hidden in the Foliage.

"What's the matter, girl?"  
"Oh, the cat went to sleep on my new  
hat and I wore her down town and back."

## DREADNOUGHTS AND FINANCE.

## Draining the Money Markets to De-

## velop Armaments.

A. H. Parnall, in Van Nostrand Magazine.

From present indications, international  
finance in the future will resolve itself  
more and more into a question of Dread-  
nought finance. With England practically  
committed to a policy of laying down  
eight, or possibly twelve, of these \$10,000-  
000 battle ships this year, Mr. David  
Lloyd-George, the chancellor of the British  
exchequer, has anything but a pleas-  
ant task before him in framing the bud-  
get, and in Germany, which apparently  
does not intend to be left behind in the  
race for naval supremacy, serious dis-  
cussion already has arisen over the pro-  
posed plan for new taxation to provide  
for naval and other expenditure. The  
latest nation to enter the lists is Austria,  
which, within the past few weeks, has  
announced its intention of commencing  
the construction of three Dreadnoughts  
of the latest type.

This may account in part for the un-  
usual action of Vienna of late in purchas-  
ing large quantities of gold in both the  
London and Paris markets. When this  
movement began it was thought to be  
due to the desire of the Austrians to adopt  
a more ambitious policy in view of its  
added power and prestige, following the  
successful outcome of the Austro-Serbian  
controversy. Later, however, opinion  
somewhat changed, and it was ascribed  
to the necessity of providing for in-  
demnities payments; but, with the an-  
nouncement of the Dreadnought pro-  
gramme, it would seem that both views  
were in part correct.

In connection it may be stated, on  
the highest international banking author-  
ity, that the question of finance had most  
to do with the prevention of an out-  
break of war in Europe, which undoubtedly  
would have changed the map of the  
world very materially. It is only a few  
weeks ago that the decision was arrived  
at in St. Petersburg that Russia could  
not afford to go to war at the present  
time, and this message being conveyed to  
the Serbian government, made it clear  
that Serbia would either have to submit  
to the Austrian demands or enter upon  
the absolutely hopeless task of fighting  
Austria single handed.

## OUR GAME FOR CASTRO.

## Irregular but Commendable on

## Broad General Grounds.

From the Nation Herald.

Cipriano Castro has found out that  
Uncle Sam has a long arm and that to  
vex the old gentleman, ordinarily so mild  
and benevolent, is an unhealthy proceed-  
ing.

But the neatness and dispatch with  
which the United States prevented Castro  
from obtaining a foothold in the West  
Indies, from which to hatch revolutionary  
plots against the Gomez administration in  
Venezuela, carry a lesson to the turbu-  
lent and ill-governed countries of this  
continent. The dictators of Central  
America, for example, may well take  
that lesson to heart. If the United States  
feels so keen an interest in the main-  
tenance of peace and order in Venezuela,  
how much more keen is likely to be  
its interest in the maintenance of peace  
and order in countries which are nearer  
to it, as those of Central America.

The United States must not use its in-  
fluence in the West Indies, and establish  
an autocracy in Liberia; but one that  
would last long enough to allow matters to  
be straightened out, when he could hand  
his affairs over to Sambo again; and what  
more interesting service for the hero of  
San Juan Hill to go to Morocco, give the  
Sultan a mauvasse quart d'heure in telling  
him where he has failed, what his duty is,  
and threaten him with one of our war-  
ships if he does not promise better be-  
havior, he might, too, act as the deliverer  
of the Boers from their bondage, for, no  
matter how much the English papers in-  
sist that the Dutchmen of the Transvaal  
are happy and content under the rule of  
John Bull, this generation will not see  
them tranquil again, and it may see a  
revolution.

"Another mission for Brother Theodore,  
a mission that would be more to his  
liking, perhaps, than any of the others,  
since he enjoys nothing so much as lectur-  
ing the eternal feminine on her duty,  
would be to visit Turkey where, it is  
said, the women of the harem, awak-  
ened by Western influence, and espe-  
cially by Pierre Loti's charming romance,  
'Decemchates,' are responsible for the  
revolution, and the success of the young  
and progressive party in overthrowing the  
former government and the purification of  
things generally in the State over which  
the Sultan rules according to Coran."

Roosevelt's idea of the fitness of things,  
these misguided women should lie them  
back to the harem, and instead of im-  
proving the men already born, bear more  
to debauch and degrade the women of the  
next generation. This is a true picture.  
President might take a hand in directing  
the affairs of Persia, which is boiling and  
seething like a great Vesuvius just at  
the present, with a prospect that the  
Shah and his ministers will be sacrificed  
in the ruin. Yes, there is a true picture  
for Col. Roosevelt to undertake, plenty  
of roles for him to play which would be  
more becoming and to his taste than  
to act as a mighty nimrod in African  
wilder.

John S. Billings, the librarian of the  
New York Public Library, for many  
years connected with the Medical Library  
at the Capital, in town in attendance  
at the meeting of the Academy of Sciences,  
is receiving a warm welcome from his  
old friends, who are always rejoiced to  
see him, for he is not only one of the  
most eminent librarians and men of  
science of his day, but a delightful per-  
son socially, appreciative, responsive and  
loyal to his friends. Dr. Billings has  
been eminent in many fields. He was  
connected with the Ohio Medical Col-  
lege as demonstrator of anatomy, served  
as surgeon and medical inspector through-  
out the whole civil war, and held the  
chair of hygiene in the University of  
Pennsylvania, but one of the greatest, if  
not his greatest, work for mankind is that  
he has performed as librarian pre-  
eminently in the library connected with  
the Surgeon General's office, of which  
the medical profession and the service to  
which it belongs is so justly proud. In-  
deed, no American who has the scientific  
prestige of his country at heart can  
not feel great satisfaction at the  
world-wide reputation this institution has  
attained, which has been of such service  
to the progress of professional and gen-  
eral science, and to the progress of the  
medical art of this country have made in  
the last half century. A noted physician,  
one time librarian of the Boston Public  
Library, an devoted friend and asso-  
ciate of Dr. Billings, once expressed the  
value of the latter's service in this con-  
nection so comprehensively and apprecia-  
tively that what he wrote has never  
been improved upon.

"The library of the Surgeon General's  
office in Washington," he said, "begun in  
1845, grew so slowly that in 1885 it con-  
tained less than 2,000 volumes. Its in-  
crease from that date has been so phe-  
nomenal that we are warranted in paus-  
ing to seek an explanation, which is not,  
however, hard to find. It was in that  
year that a young army surgeon, Dr.  
John S. Billings, who had shown literary  
tastes and marked executive ability dur-  
ing the war of the rebellion, was detailed  
to take charge of this institution, and the  
idea of developing this nucleus into a  
grand national library. By importing  
Congress year after year he secured large  
annual appropriations of money (the  
annual appropriation for the purchase of  
books has averaged nearly \$7,000 from  
1887 to 1895, inclusive), and by persistently  
canvassing, personally and by letters, the  
profession of every State in the Union he  
secured large donations of books. Ex-  
changes were effected with other medical  
libraries, not only in this country, but in  
all parts of the world. From these two  
sources about one-sixth of the total num-  
ber was derived. The result of his labors  
is the most complete medical library in  
the world, consisting of 118,547 volumes  
and 191,398 pamphlets.

"The publication of the index catalogue  
of this library, the first series of which,  
in sixteen volumes, was begun in 1893 and  
completed in 1898, while the new series  
of five or six volumes is issued, has been  
practically an index to the medical  
literature of the world up to the end of  
this century. Its value to medical  
scholars is inestimable, superseding, as  
it does, all the time-wasting procedure  
that used to be expended in bibliographical  
research. By its aid we obtain a refer-  
ence to every rare case that has been  
recorded since printing was discovered, in  
A. D. 1450." By Dr. Billings' transfer to  
the New York Public Library in 1898 the  
Medical Library lost much, but his in-  
fluence still obtains there, and will ob-  
tain so long as the man at its head has  
any respect for the traditions of the  
service of which he is a member.

## SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY.

(April 23, 1864.)

Gravest and yet most cheerful among men,  
Twas fitting that his life should dawn in spring.  
When merriment and mirth were in the gleam,  
Even as to-day they sing.

His homestead nestled among Alden's woods,  
Or by slow oyster-haunted Alden's stream,  
Flourishing toward youth, as flower the aspen buds,  
Waiting from wintry dream.

Slowly into another dream he passed,  
The dream of youth, the sweetest dream of all,  
Where warm glow dream retrospectively is cast  
When evening shadows fall.

Thence, on to other scenes for which he pined,  
Where mortal passions, mortal woes abound;  
And there his vast and universal mind  
Their tragic theater found.

When grew his wide imagination ripe,  
So his hand's dual soul and warring will  
He drew the masterful magnetic tie  
That hushes Ophelia still.

Last to "loved life" removed, from crowd and stage,  
Homeward he turned, where rustic beauties chime,  
Beseeching his rich self, not of an age,  
But for all space, in the Independent,  
Alfred Austin, in the Independent,

## VACATING.

Bro. Franklin P. Adams, editor  
of our esteemed contemporary, the  
Gothen (N. Y.) Weekly  
Gazette, vacated last week in Chicago,  
old stamping ground. He expects  
to be back on the editorial tripod  
in time for next Sat.'s Gazette, how-  
ever.

Her foot was small and slender,  
And he wore a No. 4.  
But he didn't take a minute  
That T. R.'s pretty little!

He'd traveled much in Europe,  
Faddled up and down the Nile;  
But to talk and gab about it  
Didn't seem to him worth while.

He was a fool professor,  
Made a fresh "break" every day;  
But he didn't draw his salary  
In Chicago, U. S. A.

He knew all about his act,  
Tinkered on it noon and night,  
Scorned advice of garage keepers—  
And it ALWAYS acted right.

Her foot was small and slender,  
And he wore a No. 4.  
But he didn't take a minute  
That T. R.'s pretty little!

He was a fool professor,  
Made a fresh "break" every day;  
But he didn't draw his salary  
In Chicago, U. S. A.

He knew all about his act,  
Tinkered on it noon and night,  
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